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Westly Appoints Burnham Institute CEO To Stem Cell Oversight Committee

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly today appointed the chief executive of La Jolla's non-profit Burnham Institute to help govern California's historic new investment in stem-cell research.

Westly named Dr. John C. Reed to the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee that will oversee the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine established by Proposition 71.

"Dr. Reed runs one of the world's most prestigious medical research facilities, and he brings a combination of world-class research skills and scientific leadership to this post," Westly said. "Working near the hundreds of high technology and life-science firms in San Diego, I'm confident Dr. Reed will help identify projects with the best potential for finding the next breakthrough cures."

Dr. Reed founded and directed the Institute's program on apoptosis and cell death research and ranks among the top biomedical researchers worldwide. Dr Reed authored more than 500 papers and has published more articles on cell death in the past six years than any other scientist. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and both an MD and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

"I am honored to accept Controller Westly's appointment to serve on the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee to implement Proposition 71. Stem cell research has been hailed as the most promising medical research frontier of the 21st century," said Dr. Reed. "The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, as envisioned in Proposition 71, will help ensure that we are able to deliver on that medical promise."

Controller Westly earlier appointed Stanford Medical School Dean Dr. Philip Pizzo to the 29-member citizen's committee that will oversee stem-cell research in California. Westly will appoint three additional members and nominate a chair and vice-chair to the committee before its first meeting next month.

Westly will also serve as a chair of a second panel established by the initiative, the Citizen's Financial Accountability Oversight Committee, and appoint one of its members.

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